

**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5**

**DATE:** March 2, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Reports of Significant Developments and Activities  
Ending on February 23, 2007

**FROM:** Richard C. Karl, Director  
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**TO:** Mary A. Gade  
Regional Administrator

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The activities listed below are organized by site-specific activities and training/conferences:

**SITE-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

**Response (Plant Fire), Knauf Insulation, Shelbyville, Indiana**

On February 16, 2007, U.S. EPA On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Anita Boseman responded to a request from Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) for U.S. EPA's assistance to provide air monitoring at a fire at the Knauf Insulation facility located in Shelbyville, Indiana. The fire started in the office portion of the facility and spread to a portion of the receiving area. The plume generated by the fire was estimated to be as long as five miles at times. U.S. EPA conducted air monitoring and water sampling. All data collected throughout the day indicated safe levels of volatile organic compounds, lower explosive limit (LEL), carbon monoxide, and oxygen. Portable multi-gas monitor (AreaRAE) data also supported these findings, as well as indicating safe levels of chlorine. Sampling results of the runoff water were below drinking water standards. OSC Anita Boseman issued a "Verbal General Notice of Liability" to Knauf Insulation. A Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms investigation determined the cause of the fire to be a faulty outlet. IDEM continues to monitor the cleanup.

Contact: Anita Boseman (312-886-6941)

**TRAINING/CONFERENCES****Emergency Services Capability Assessment, Argonne National Laboratory, DuPage County, Illinois**

On February 21, 2007, On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Brad Benning and Glenn Cekus (Chemical Emergency Preparedness and Prevention Section) represented the Agency at the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Emergency Services Capability Assessment (ESCA) round table discussion located at Argonne National Laboratory in DuPage County, Illinois. The ESCA is the final stage of the Chemical Comprehensive Review Program (CR), which is a cooperative government-led analysis of critical infrastructure and resources within the metropolitan Chicago chemical sector. The Chemical CR enhances public safety by: integrating Federal, State, and local efforts to prevent and protect against terrorist attack; and, identifying opportunities to coordinate and enhance prevention and response capabilities. The topics for the round table were Prevention and Planning (focusing on details of awareness, deterrence, protection, and prevention) and Incident Management (focusing on crisis and consequence management, and mitigation). A tabletop exercise also took place that involved almost every participant. The scenario consisted of a simulated terrorist attack on a chemical facility that resulted in the release of a toxic chlorine-like vapor, a highly flammable gas, and a corrosive material. Response organizations established an incident command organization and discussed simulated response actions to the event. All facility and emergency response personnel were encouraged to participate, providing specific information about appropriate or necessary response actions. Afterward, a debriefing was held and participants received a report on the findings.

Contacts: Glenn Cekus (312-353-6229)  
Brad Benning (312-353-7613)

**SPCC Regulatory Update Seminar, U.S. EPA Region 5, Chicago, Illinois**

The Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) Program (Oil Section) conducted the first of two seminars covering the SPCC regulation, "Updates, Tips, How To's and the Basics". The seminar is designed to assist facility owners/operators and consultants with understanding the recent rule revisions (effective February 26, 2007), what to expect during an inspection, the basics of oil spill prevention for aboveground oil storage containers (40 CFR Part 112), and much more. The

first seminar was held on February 15, 2007, and the second seminar will be held on March 2, 2007, at the Chicago Regional Office. Approximately 54 people were in attendance representing the regulated industry, environmental consultants, and engineers.

Contact: Barb Carr (312-886-7187)

**Tabletop Exercise (Radiological Attack), Bloomington, Minnesota**

On February 21, 2007, the Federal Executive Board of Minnesota hosted a table top exercise in Bloomington, Minnesota. Sonia R. Vega, Superfund Division, and Ed Watters, Resource Management Division, represented U.S. EPA. The scenario involved a radiological attack. This (Phase I) was the awareness portion of the exercise. Phase II will involve removal and clean up, and Phase III will be recovery. These are scheduled for June 7 and October 11, respectively. Representatives from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. General Services Administration (GSA), U.S. EPA and other Federal agencies participated. Various levels of State, County, and City government were present, as well.

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